

Means of implementation, including capacity building, technical assistance and Finance

Thank you, chair. I am Abubakar Bamai speaking on behalf of the INC Youth Focus Group of the Major Group for Children and Youth.

Firstly, we are aware that to eradicate plastic pollution, the management of such waste takes paramount importance. However, we also strongly think that equal attention should be given to transitioning to alternative materials that are not harmful to the environment as a whole.

Secondly, we want to draw attention to a 2015 report from UNEP titled “Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter”. We are highlighting three points from the summary.

- One, that claims and counterclaims about the biodegradability of polymers in the environment appear to be influenced by commercial interests.
- Two, public perceptions about whether an item is biodegradable can influence littering behavior.
- Three, based on available evidence, biodegradable plastics will not play a significant role in reducing marine litter.

Therefore we highly urge that scientific findings should guideline this instrument’s creation and implementation and that we do not hurry into moving to alternatives that end up creating problems to solve later.

Third, On Finance

- We support the general sentiments on the provision for finance for developing countries and mobilizing finance across board
- We advocate that the immediate reduction of subsidies to fossil fuels, in order to push the phase out of plastic production, should be central part of this treaty
- Finally, we encourage that the new financial mechanism must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, their land, and promote inclusion of all stakeholders.

Finally, in regards to capacity building, we insist on the urgency of environmental education and capacity building, therefore, we support the mandatory implementation of educational and capacity building programs, at all levels, in all school curricula, universities, businesses and other institutions. The legally binding instrument must require governments to make mandatory education on the topics of marine environment.

Thank you, chair!